

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Currently pending are claims 2-4, 15-19, 44-48, 60-62 and 73-77. Claims 22-25, 28, 29, 31-33, 51-53, 57, 58, 80, 81, 83, 86, 87 and 93-107 are cancelled without prejudice by this amendment. Applicant retains the right to pursue these claims in a continuation application.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 22-25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 51-53, 57, 58, 80, 81, 83, 86, 87 and 93-107 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Herrington et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,189,764). Claim 31 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Herrington. Claims 2-4, 15-19, 44-48, 60-62 and 73-77 are indicated as allowable.

Summary of the Amendments

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims not indicated to be allowable have been cancelled.

Discussion of the Prior Art Rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that there are substantial differences between the applied references, US Patent No. 5,189,764 to Herrington and Applicant's claimed invention. However, to expedite the prosecution of the subject matter that the Office Action indicates is allowable, Applicant has made the cancellations and amendments to the claims indicated above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. An early and favorable consideration of this Response is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

In the unlikely event that the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required as a result of this response, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due to Deposit Account No. 03-2270. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ann M. Lee/
Ann M. Lee
Reg. No. 47,741
Customer No.: 27019
Attorney for Applicant
The Glad Products Company
P.O. Box 24305
Oakland, CA 94623
Telephone: (510) 271-3136
Facsimile: (510) 271-1652

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